

Some Upcoming Events

Spring Celebration

Main Street, Berlin, Maryland
April 11, 2009
www.berlinmdcc.org

Ocean to Bay Bike Tour

Routes begin and end at Garfield
Parkway and the boardwalk in
Bethany Beach, Delaware
April 18, 2009
www.TheQuietResorts.com

Bay Bridge Boat Show

Kent Island, Maryland
April 23-26, 2009
www.usboat.com

Old Dover Days

Dover, Delaware
May 1-3, 2009
www.visitdover.com

Delmarva Driving Club's Pleasure Carriage Driving Show

Denton, Maryland
May 9, 2009
www.delmarvadrivingclub.com

Washington College Reunion Weekend

Chestertown, Maryland
May 15-17, 2009
www.washcoll.edu

Highlighted Event

Dogwood Day
Galena, Maryland
May 9, 2009

The Delmarva Peninsula

The Delmarva Peninsula occupies portions of three states with its name being formed from letters from these states.

Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

One possible northern boundary for the peninsula could be the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. This would technically make it an Island, since you can't get on or off of the peninsula without crossing a body of water. However it's still regarded as a peninsula since the canal is man-made.

From the C&D canal to the peninsula's southern point at the tip of the Eastern Shore of Virginia it is about 180 miles. At its widest it's about 60 miles, although most of the peninsula is much narrower. The land area is about 5.45 thousand square miles.

The other bodies of waters surrounding the peninsula are to the East - Delaware River, Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean; to the West - The Chesapeake Bay and to the South - the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay as it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

There are 5 bridges over the C&D canal to get onto the peninsula. These are at MD 213, Delaware 896, US 13, Delaware 1 and US 9. There is also a railroad bridge that crosses the canal east of Delaware 896. There are two accesses to the peninsula across the Chesapeake Bay. One is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, which crosses the bay near Annapolis Maryland to Kent Island. The other is the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel, which, links Cape Charles, Va., the southern tip of the peninsula, with Norfolk, VA.

Nine of Maryland's 23 counties are located on the peninsula. These being the counties of Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester and a portion of Cecil County. The Virginia counties of Accomack and Northampton and the Delaware Counties of Kent, Sussex and a portion of New Castle County makes up the rest.

A major part of the Delmarva Peninsula's economy is through agriculture, aquaculture, sports hunting and fishing, and tourism.

The scheduled date of publication for our next Newsletter is May 6, 2009

Galena, Maryland

Galena was founded in 1763 as a tavern town. William Downs was the owner of the local tavern. This is where the town's original name Downs's Cross Roads derived.

Later the name was changed to Georgetown Cross Roads and finally Galena after silver was discovered in 1813. Galena was the type of silver discovered. During the War of 1812, fearing that the British might capture the mine, it was closed.

Today the town still is a cross road with routes 213 and 313 meeting at the town's stoplight between the towns south of it to Cecil county to the north and Delaware to the east.



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Galena Dogwood Day

Have you ever seen a town's Mayor kiss a monkey? It happened at Galena's 2008 Dogwood Day. And who knows it could happen again in 2009.

The annual festival starts with a 5k walk/run at 8:30am, a parade down Main Street at 10am, an 1861 Galena Militia Reenactment at 2pm. There are crafts, exhibits, demonstrations, games, baby contest, face painting, music and singing, line dancing, eastern shore food, motorcycle show, trolley rides and more.

Activities may be found all around the town of Galena from 8:30 am to 4 pm.

For more information call 410-648-5443.

Delaware

The State of Delaware is named after the Delaware Bay and River. These bodies of water were named for Thomas West, 3rd Baron De La Warr, who lived from 1577 to 1618 and was the second Royal Governor of Virginia. The Delaware Bay and River was first explored by Henry Hudson.

At one time Delaware was part of the claim of the Maryland colony of Cæcilius Calvert, 2nd Baron Baltimore. However, the Dutch first settled in Southern Delaware near Lewes in 1631. All members of this colony were killed by the natives. Calvert's 1632 charter gave him land that was not settled by Europeans.

James, the Duke York, removed a Swedish colony near present day Wilmington in 1663, even though they had been there since 1638. After winning the claim over the protest of Calvert, James sold his claim to William Penn in 1682 making the area part of Pennsylvania. By 1705, the land now known as Delaware had its own separate assembly from Pennsylvania, even though they had a common Royal Governor. It wasn't until 1776 that the colony took the name Delaware.

The surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon was given the task to chart the borders of the Province of Pennsylvania, the Province of Maryland, Delaware Colony and parts of Colony and Old Dominion of Virginia. This was as a resolution of the border dispute between British colonies and took from 1763 and 1767 to be completed.

With the population center of the state being near the town of Townsend, which is only around ten miles south of the C&D Canal, only a little over half of the 843.5 thousand people of Delaware live on the peninsula south of the C&D canal.

Delaware, south of the canal, has a more rural way of life with an agricultural output of poultry, nursery stock, soybeans, dairy products and corn. Southern Delaware is a place that deer run wild, the beaches are hot and the farmers take life slow and easy with no worries. Many residents of the area call it Slower Lower.

Although Delaware doesn't have any national parks, national seashores, national historic sites, national battlefields or national monuments it is loaded with places of interest. There are museum, wildlife refuges, parks, historic houses, lighthouses and a national history.

Delaware was the first state to adopt the Constitution of the United States earning it the nickname 'The First State'.

Maryland

The portion of Maryland that makes up Delmarva is its Eastern Shore. This is a little more than a third of Maryland's total land area is made up from nine. In the 2004 census the population of the area was nearly 491 thousand. This is only about 8% of Maryland total population.

Maryland was named in the honor of Henriette Maria, Queen Consort of Charles I. A charter for the "Maryland Colony" was granted to Cæcilius Calvert, 2nd Lord Baltimore, on June 20, 1632.

A year before in 1631 with permission from the Virginia Governor, William Claiborne established a trading post on an island located in the upper Chesapeake Bay. Claiborne named the island Kent Island after his home, Kent England.

The historic towns, meandering creeks and wonderful nature areas characterize the area. Each of the nine Maryland counties has their own special history.

There is plenty to do and see. There are museums in every county and in many of the towns.

Golfers are never far from a scenic golf course. The sunsets and rises are breathtaking. Many of the restaurants feature views like few others.

It's a slower way of life surrounded by water. It is a place where people wave and say hello as they pass.

The area's main economy involves vegetable and grain farming, seafood, and a large-scale chicken breeding operation on the lower eastern shore. The Perdue Company began as a small egg farm in Salisbury.

Tourism activities abound with one of its most visited destination being the Atlantic Ocean bordered Ocean City.

With the opening of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the area has changed, especially Queen Anne's and Talbot counties. These counties have become home to many who work at businesses located west of the Chesapeake Bay. In fact many of the residents work not on the eastern shore, but on the western shore or Delaware.

Despite this the region still holds its charm. The area maintains a unique rural quality. Many who cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge feels an ease come over them as they reach the eastern shore. There is a true independence from a helter skelter way of life.

Virginia

The Eastern Shore of Virginia is a 70 miles long strip of land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Chesapeake Bay. It's a small portion of Virginia with a population of a little over 50 thousand and sits at the southern tip of the Delmarva Peninsula.

The land border between Virginia and Maryland starts on the west side of the peninsula roughly level with the Maryland-Virginia border of the Potomac River across the Chesapeake Bay. The line sits near the 38th Parallel and runs roughly eastwards until it meets the Atlantic.

Virginia's Eastern Shore is an area where old world accents are spoken and a place to shop at roadside stands and crab from a pier. Similar to the rest of the peninsula it's a place to slow down and enjoy the small towns, beaches and wildlife preserves.

The first landing was made in 1603 with a permanent settlement established in 1614. This would make the Virginia's Eastern Shore as having the oldest settlement of the peninsula.

In fact, the two counties of Virginia's Eastern Shore have the two oldest U.S. repositories of continuous court records with Northampton's dating back to 1632.

The area enjoys a moderate climate with Barrier Islands that gives protection from storms. There is abundant wildlife.

Most of the citizens still work in agriculture and aquaculture.

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